

## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Aqueous suspensions of cross-linked silicone particles comprising:

- (A) cross-linked silicone particles with an average particle size of from 0.5 to 500 µm,
- (B) N-acyl-, N-hydrocarbon taurines represented by the general formula (I);



(where R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> stand for unsubstituted or substituted monovalent hydrocarbon groups and/or their salts[, and];

- (C) water[.]; and
- (D) non-crosslinkable oil;

wherein component (D) contains component (A) and is dispersed in water in the form of droplets.

2. (Previously Presented) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 1, wherein component (A) comprises cross-linked silicone particles containing non-crosslinkable oil.

3. (Original) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 1, wherein component (A) accounts for from 25 to 80 % by weight, component (B) accounts for from 0.001 to 20 % by weight, and component (C) accounts for from 5 to 75 % by weight.

4. (Cancelled)

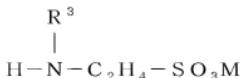
5. (Currently Amended) The aqueous emulsions according to claim [[4]]1, wherein component (D), which contains component (A) accounts for from 25 to 90 % by weight, component (B) accounts for from 0.001 to 20 % by weight, and component (C) accounts for from 5 to 75 % by weight.

6. (Previously Presented) Cosmetic raw materials comprising the aqueous suspensions according to claim 1.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 1, wherein component (B) is selected from the group of sodium N-lauroyl methyl taurine, sodium N-myristoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-oleoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-stearoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, potassium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, magnesium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, sodium N-palmitoyl methyl taurine, potassium N-stearoyl methyl taurine, potassium N-cetylcoyloyl methyl taurine, and combinations thereof.

9. (Previously Presented) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 14, wherein the alkaline substance for neutralizing the N-acyl-, N-hydrocarbon taurines is further defined as a taurine salt represented by the general formula

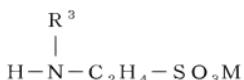


(where R<sup>3</sup> stands for a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, and M is an alkali metal).

10. (Previously Presented) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 9, wherein the taurine salt is selected from the group of sodium taurine, sodium N-methyl taurine, and combinations thereof.

11. (Previously Presented) The aqueous emulsions according to claim 4, wherein component (B) is selected from the group of sodium N-lauroyl methyl taurine, sodium N-myristoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-oleoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-stearoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, potassium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, magnesium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, sodium N-palmitoyl methyl taurine, potassium N-stearoyl methyl taurine, potassium N-cetylcoyloyl methyl taurine, and combinations thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) The aqueous emulsions according to claim 16, wherein the alkaline substance for neutralizing the N-acyl-, N-hydrocarbon taurines is further defined as a taurine salt represented by the general formula



(where R<sup>3</sup> stands for a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, and M is an alkali metal).

13. (Previously Presented) The aqueous emulsions according to claim 12, wherein the taurine salt is selected from the group of sodium taurine, sodium N-methyl taurine, and combinations thereof.

14. (Previously Presented) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 1 wherein component (B) is further defined as a salt of N-acyl-, N-hydrocarbon taurines formed by neutralizing the N-acyl-, N-hydrocarbon taurines with an alkaline substance.

15. (Previously Presented) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 14 wherein the alkaline substance for neutralizing component (B) is selected from the group of alkali metal hydroxides, acid salts of alkali metals, water-soluble amines, basic amino acids, and taurine salts.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The aqueous emulsions according to claim 16 wherein the alkaline substance for neutralizing component (B) is selected from the group of alkali metal hydroxides, acid salts of alkali metals, water-soluble amines, basic amino acids, and taurine salts.